

HONORING THE SUSSEX COUNTY
VETERANS MEMORIAL**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring attention and pay tribute to Sussex County, New Jersey, for their efforts to recognize the heroic feats of our region. In the historic downtown square of Newton, New Jersey, a 34-inch-diameter cast bell is engraved with the words "Sussex County Veterans Memorial 2005." This memorial is long overdue, but truly represents the liberty, freedom and democracy our brave men and women in the armed forces have fought for. What better time to present this memorial than on the occasion when our Nation pays our respects to our defenders of liberty on Veterans Day.

Defending our country by serving in the armed forces is one of the most commendable achievements and deserves our utmost gratitude and respect. America's armed forces have time and again fought to protect our homeland and bring freedom and prosperity to the entire world.

We must never forget the sacrifices of these men and women and every effort must be made to ensure that our veterans and all they fought for are never forgotten. The Sussex County Veterans Memorial will remind all Americans of the monumental accomplishments our soldiers have made throughout history. They will be honored, admired and remembered forever.

It is with extreme reverence that I offer my sincerest gratitude to the veterans of Sussex County, New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BLANCHE
SPARROW RIVERS IN CELEBRATION
OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my most senior constituents, Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on November 15, 2005.

Mrs. Rivers, is the third of five children born to Henry Clay and Hattie Brown Sparrow. Since the New Bern school system only offered 2 years of high school, Mrs. Rivers' father sent her to Durham, North Carolina, to the National Religious Training School where she matriculated to Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1927, Mrs. Rivers received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Shaw University. She went on to teach English in the New Bern public school system for 24 years until her retirement in 1951. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that Mrs. Rivers can take credit for shaping many young minds and is responsible for directing the paths of many of my constituents who have grown into productive upstanding citizens.

In June 1932, Blanche Sparrow married Mr. Bishop Singleton Rivers, and in July 1935, Barbara Lucille Rivers was born. Mrs. Rivers is a charter member of the Theta Beta Omega

Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is also a faithful member of the St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, which her father helped build. She continues to serve as a Captain for the Annual Fundraising Team.

Mrs. Rivers has five grandchildren, Michael, Lisa, Leander, Gary, and Marc, and five great-grandchildren, Morgan, Kristen, Marissa, Kaci and Kori—listed in order of the most senior. She is a beloved member of the community and church. Mrs. Rivers still resides in New Bern with her daughter, Barbara.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Congressional Colleagues and the more than 660,000 constituents whom I represent, I extend my very best wishes to Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers as she celebrates this tremendous milestone. I ask my Colleagues to rise and join me in wishing Mrs. Blanche Sparrow Rivers a Happy 100th Birthday.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4128) to protect private property rights:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of The Private Property Rights Protection Act, H.R. 4128. I have heard from a number of my constituents in New Jersey. They have come to my town hall meetings, sent me emails and called me on the phone, to express their concern about the potential for abuse of the power of eminent domain. I have heard their concerns and I share their concerns. That is why I support this legislation to make clear that local authorities may not use the power of eminent domain solely to increase the tax revenue for the town.

H.R. 4128 is a bipartisan bill that responds to the Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*. Most troubling about the decision was that the Court upheld the right of New London to take private property and transfer it to another private individual for the purpose of increasing the tax revenue of the city. I am glad we are acting today to prevent this from becoming a regular practice.

The rights of property owners were so important to our nation's founders that they enshrined property rights in our Constitution. They knew that towns and municipalities would need to look after the greater public good and occasionally acquire property with just compensation to the owners in order to use that property for public good. The power of eminent domain has enabled us to make many advances over the years. It was used to create the national railroad system, the interstate highway system, and make telephone, electric, sewer, and water lines available to all our communities. Eminent domain, when used properly, is a critical power of government that has benefited people in New Jersey and across America.

When used improperly, however, eminent domain is a fearsome power. Transfer of a person's property—particularly their home—to

another private interest solely on the basis of tax revenue is an unwise and dangerous authority. With this bill, Congress is rightly acting to protect private property rights and ensure that property owners will not have their house taken from them by an over zealous town council seeking to increase its tax coffers.

Mr. Chairman, while eminent domain is used across America for beneficial and important reasons that support the public good, we need to ensure that towns do not overstep their powers. H.R. 4128 helps define the boundary lines.

RECOGNIZING SOLANO COUNTY AS
ONE OF THE 100 BEST COMMUNITIES
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Solano County for its selection as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America's Promise, the Alliance for Youth.

I am proud that this honor has been bestowed upon our community, but I am by no means surprised. Everyday, we in Solano County are visibly reminded of the commitment of the government and people of Solano County to the health and safety of our children. I want to congratulate the many dedicated parties who have worked so diligently to make Solano County one of the top communities in our country for young people.

Solano County is poised to become the first county in California with health care coverage for 100% of its children. Solano County has been an excellent steward of its share of Tobacco Master Settlement agreement funds, ensuring that it is spent on effective health services.

Solano County's annual Children's Report Card is an effective tool for government and non-profit organizations to continually reassess the needs of our youth. Clearly, Solano County is getting it right when it comes to kids.

Organizations such as the Children's Network, First 5 Solano, the Child Care Planning Council, the Family Resource Centers, the Solano Coalition for Better Health, the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, as well as countless others, deserve credit for this distinction.

Again, I commend all of the people and organizations that continue to work tirelessly to make Solano County one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

AUTHORIZING THE REMAINS OF
ROSA PARKS TO LIE IN HONOR
IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize